

**Some INFRARED nostalgia from the time the AGA Thermovision® Infrared Cameras were introduced to the world and to the USA in particular!** (Before FLIR)

**The year was 1966!!!** In the summer of 1966, in July, the first 2 ea. AGA Thermovision Thermal Infrared Camera Systems showed up at **AGA Corporation of America** in South Plainfield, NJ. The address was New World Way and the location was at the west side of **Hadley Airport** in South Plainfield NJ, close to the interstate (**I-287**).

**Those cameras were the AGA Thermovision® 652**, complete with a specially built Oscilloscope-Display Unit, with a short persistence phosphor cathode-ray tube, made by Fairchild DuMont labs in Clifton NJ and equipped with AGA manufactured left and right plug-in units. The left plug-in unit was for image level setting and focusing plus power supply and the right was for the image temperature settings plus the calibrated Isotherm™ level setting function.

The first unit was sold to Dr. Ernest Wood MD, head of the neurological department at Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City. It was used for Temperature studies of the fore head of patients related to the cardioid blood supply to the head and brain.

The second unit was delivered to the US Army for Night Vision Research.

**These two cameras were the first commercial real time live instantaneous picture presentation calibrated infrared cameras to be available on US soil ever.** The single element Liquid Nitrogen cooled photovoltaic Indium Antimonide detector was scanned vertically with a tilting mirror and the horizontal scan was performed with a 4-sided refractive Germanium prism spinning at 24,000 rpm.

The President of AGA Corporation of America at this time was **Mr. Alvar Ohlsson**; Vice President was **Mr. Stig Krogh** (also Geodimeter engineer) The New Product Manager was **Mr. Dietrich Baeu** who also was in charge of the introduction of the AGA Thermovision®. In charge of the Engineering side of the Infrared Department and the new AGA Thermovision cameras was **Mr. Jan K. Eklund**, a Swedish Engineer who just started with the company. **He and Mr. Baeu would spend a many years together to bring** the first live instantaneous image presentation temperature calibrated AGA Thermovision® Thermal Imaging Camera to the American market and to bring to fruition the idea of using this new technology for use in all the applications we now feel are all common!



To the left: The **AGA Corporation of America Building** in South Plainfield seen from the airport side.

This building was specifically built to facilitate the calibration of the AGA Geodimeter™ Distance Measuring Systems, beaming cross-over the airport to retro-reflectors located on the other side of the airport. 1966!



The Swedish AGA Heads of the AGA Thermovision® development and manufacturing at the time was **Mr. Nils Björk** and **Mr. Sven Bertil Borg**.

Picture to the left shows an **AGA THV 652** at Swedish ASEA 1966!

A couple of years later the company was moved to a new building at 550 County Avenue, Secaucus, NJ. **AGA means: Aktiebolaget Gas Accumulator.** AGA Infrared Systems Inc. changed to AGEMA and then to FLIR!

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